



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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**MEMBER**  
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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 158**  
**AN ACT CONCERNING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT LICENSES.**  
**General Law Committee Public Hearing**  
**February 17, 2015**

Chairmen Leone and Baram, Ranking Members Witkos and Carter, and members of the General Law Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 158: AN ACT CONCERNING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT LICENSES.

As written, the proposed bill language is overly broad and has led to consternation and confusion within the landscape architect community. The intent of this bill is to ensure that qualified, educated and experienced people can earn their landscape architects' license in a timelier manner than what currently exists under today's law. Some incorrectly believe that this bill was intended to allow for licensure without examination. This is simply untrue since I recognize the importance of this rigorous four-part exam.

This issue was first brought to my attention by a constituent who has earned a master's degree in landscape design and has worked under the direct supervision of a landscape architect for nearly four years. Under current law, someone who passes the exam, and has graduated from an accredited landscape architecture program and works under the direct supervision of a landscape architect for two years may obtain a license. Absent graduation from an accredited landscape architecture program, a person must pass the exam and have eight years of direct supervision before becoming eligible for licensure. This eight year requirement doesn't distinguish between someone who may have dropped out of high school verses someone who holds a degree in a closely-related field such as Horticulture, Landscape Design, Architecture, or Engineering. It is my belief that someone who has earned a degree in one of these closely-related fields should have an opportunity earlier than eight years to obtain a license.

In an effort to significantly narrow the universe from the proposed language, I offer the following suggested language as a starting point for your consideration:

Sec. 20-370. Examination for licensure. Fee. No person shall receive a license under the provisions of this chapter until he has passed an examination which shall include the uniform national examination established by the Council of Landscape Architectural Boards for examination of candidates for licensure as landscape architects and such technical and professional subjects as may be prescribed by the board with the consent of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. Any person who has completed the course of study in and been graduated from a college or school of landscape architecture approved by the board may apply for such examination, provided he shall submit evidence of a minimum of two years' practical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed landscape architect. In lieu of such graduation from an accredited college or school of landscape architecture and such practical experience, an applicant may be admitted to the examination upon presenting evidence of 1) having earned the minimum of a bachelor's degree in architecture, engineering, horticulture or landscape design and at least four years of actual, practical experience in landscape architecture under the direct supervision of a licensed landscape architect, or 2) at least eight years of actual, practical experience in landscape architectural work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board. If the applicant's examination is satisfactory, upon payment of the license fee fixed by section 20-374, the board shall authorize the Department of Consumer Protection to issue a license to the applicant, showing that the person named therein passed the examination and is entitled to practice landscape architecture in this state in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

This is only one alternative for your committee to consider. I'm hopeful that other constructive ideas will be brought forward through today's hearing.

Since the introduction of this legislation, I have been in communication with representatives of the CT Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, other landscape architects, and UConn's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. I remain committed to working with them to find a practical solution that that will allow for the licensing of a limited universe of capable prospective landscape architects while preserving the sanctity of the licensing process and without compromising the public's health, safety and welfare.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask that you move this bill forward as these discussions continue.